

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE CONTROL PROJECT

Targhee National Forest

Fall and Winter, 1967

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1/8/68
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Targhee National Forest

1967 - 1968

(Report Period - 08/01/67 through 12/31/67)

I. Introduction

A preliminary project plan was prepared for the 1967-1968 project during the last week in August. The objective of that plan was to treat all mountain pine beetle-infested trees on the Targhee National Forest and adjacent lands except for the main Rexburg infestation. This plan was submitted to the Regional Forester on September 1.

A reconnaissance survey was made on 15 selected units during the first two weeks in September. It was found from these surveys that there were over two million infested trees on the proposed project area. Buildup ratios were at least 5 to 1 on areas eliminated from the last project.

On September 5, a planning meeting was held with zone supervisors, project supervisor, TM branch chief, and Regional Office personnel. We were informed at that meeting to limit the size of the project to 400,000 infested trees. In order to stay within that limitation and still conduct an effective treating program, it was decided to treat all epidemic infestations on or adjacent to the Targhee, that are north of the Cave Falls road. Conclusions were that if any parts of the area north of the Cave Falls road were sacrificed, effective control would not be possible anywhere on the Targhee by present treating methods.

Work to be accomplished by December 31 was planned as follows:

1. Complete reconnaissance survey by 9/15.
2. Award spot and treat contracts on 15 units west of U.S. 191 on Zone II by September 25 and complete spotting by November 1.
3. Award spotting contracts on 10 units north of Cave Falls road on Zone IV by September 25 and complete by October 25.
4. Award treating contracts on same 10 units of Zone IV by October 25.
5. Survey all areas, not previously treated, by December 1.
6. Complete spotting on 25 units by November 1.
7. Complete paintlining of all new units by December 31.

8. Complete treating of approximately 200,000 infested trees by December 31.

9. Complete force account treating of special areas by December 31.

Plans could not be put into effect nor could the majority of the work be started until October 18 because the major portion of financing for the project was not received until that date.

Supplies, manpower, and vehicles were all ordered by September 9 and the recon survey was completed on September 15. Ground surveys were started on October 2. Spotting, oil, EDB, and subsistence contracts were awarded on October 9. Most of the manpower was on hand by October 8 so surveyors and checkers were trained on October 10 and 11. This training was conducted by Galen Trostle of the Regional Office I&DC branch.

Contract treating was not started until October 23 because of the delay in receiving funds. A month of good treating weather was lost because of that factor. Force account treating was not started until October 15 for the same reason. The spotting contracts were completed by November 10 and treating was started on these units by November 15. All planned spotting and surveys were completed by December 1. A two and one-half month delay in receiving tree marking paint from GSA slowed progress in paintlining.

The master plan for the project was prepared on October 12, recommended by the Forest Supervisor on November 2, and submitted to the Regional Forester on November 6. It was approved by the Regional Forester on 12/7/67.

Six spotting, eight standing treat, and seven spot and treat standing contracts were awarded on 25 treating units. One subsistence, one EDB, and one diesel oil contracts were also awarded. The last treating contracts were started on November 15.

On December 13 a meeting was held in the Supervisor's Office and all spotting and survey results were analyzed. It was determined that there were 440,000 infested trees on seventy-one treating units within the project area. Regional Office personnel attended this meeting and were informed that finances were not sufficient to complete the project as planned.

In the interest of economy, all work was stopped on December 22 and all men and equipment returned by December 31. No major problems were experienced, except the delay in receiving funds. A supplement to the master plan was prepared by December 31 for work to be accomplished from January 1 through July 31, 1968.

A considerable amount of resurfacing drainage construction and maintenance was accomplished on the Forest roads serving the project. Also, from December 1 all the main access roads on the project area were cleared of snow periodically. This work was done by the Forest road crews and contract gravel haulers. Access to the treating areas was improved considerably by this work. During the first six months of F.Y. 1968, \$84,440 of insect control funds were spent for this work.

Summary of Accomplishments

<u>Job</u>	<u>Planned for Completion by Dec. 31</u>	<u>Accomplished by Dec. 31</u>
Treating	200,000 trees	54,000 trees
Treating Contracts	25 units	25 units
Spotting Contracts	10 units	10 units
Spotting	83,500 acres	83,500 acres
Paintlining	184,000 acres	84,000 acres
Surveys	150,000 acres	150,000 acres

Treating Summary

	<u>N.F.</u>		<u>STATE</u>		<u>PRIVATE</u>		<u>BLM</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	
	<u>T</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>A</u>
<u>Contract</u>	34,845	25,373	5,077	1,454	8,878	1,970	333	40	49,133	28,837
<u>F. A.</u>	4,957	1,094							4,957	1,094
<u>Logging</u>	10,754	1,402							10,754	1,402
<u>TOTAL</u>	50,556	27,869	5,077	1,454	8,878	1,970	333	40	64,844	31,333

Fourteen timber sales are in progress, sold, or prepared.

Field inspections made by the project supervisor were as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Zone II</u>	<u>Zone IV</u>	<u>D-2</u>	<u>D-5</u>	<u>Total</u>
Kincheloe	11	14	2	2	29

II. Contracts

The following tabulation is a summary of all contracts to date:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Bid Price</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Percent Completed</u>	<u>Contractor Cooperation</u>
Dalley & Rasmussen	Snow Cr.	\$1.21	Spotting	100	Good
	Rock Cr.	1.19	Spotting	100	
	Rising Butte	1.22	Spotting	100	
Lavelle Johnson	Warm River	1.27	Spotting	100	Good
	Warm R. Butte	1.33	Spotting	100	
	Reiman	1.50	Spotting	100	
Garry Isaacs	Fish Creek	1.82	Spotting	100	Fair
Smith & Thompson	Robinson Cr.	1.31	Spotting	100	Good
Wayne Nelson	L. Robinson	1.84	Spotting	100	Good
Hathaway	Horseshoe Lake	1.49	Spotting	100	Good
Grant Daniels	Warm River	1.89	Treating	0	Good
	Horseshoe Lake	1.39	Treating	50	
Fred Stephens	Fish Cr.	1.45	Treating	100	Good
	Rock Cr.	1.75	Treating	0	
Earl Hamblin	Robinson Cr.	1.36	Treating	45	Good
Joe Hill	L. Robinson	1.16	Treating	85	Good
Ken Wright	Warm River Butte	1.35	Treating	10	Fair
Jack Robertson	Snow Cr.	1.20	Treating	5	Good
Vern Little	Reiman	.94	Treating	60	Good
Johnson, Allen, & Shuldberg	Rising Butte	1.49	Treating	15	Good
Ken Wright	Bear Canyon	2.45	Spot & Treat	0*	Good
	Green Canyon	2.89	Spot & Treat	30	
	West Bishop	2.99	Spot & Treat	90	
Walker Brothers	Smead Canyon	2.98	Spot & Treat	25	Fair
A. W. Angell	Lyle Springs	2.63	Spot & Treat	75	Good
	Jackson Mill	2.73	Spot & Treat	100	
	Sadorus Hill	2.73	Spot & Treat	0*	
	N. Big Bend	2.83	Spot & Treat	0*	

Loyal Ross	N. Antelope	1.84	Spot & Treat 5	Poor
Ken Anderson	High Point	1.84	Spot & Treat 0*	Fair
	Little Butte	2.55	Spot & Treat 50	
Fred Stephens	S. Big Bend	1.94	Spot & Treat 65	Good
	Fogg Butte	1.85	Spot & Treat 100	
Hansen	Bishop Burn	1.64	Spot & Treat 75	Good
	Davis Lake	1.49	Spot & Treat 0*	
Edgington	Per meal	1.85	Substance 50	Good
Bair Oil Co.	Per gallon	0.10497	Diesel 50	Good
Wasatch Chemical	Per gallon	1.178	EDB 50	Good

All contract work was stopped on December 22, 1967. The uncompleted units will be completed in the spring. It is not possible to determine how many additional treating units will need to be contracted until the plan for spring work is approved and additional funds forthcoming. However, we anticipate that there will be forty-six additional units, based on present proposed plans.

The oil, EDB, and substance contracts continue until the end of the project. There will not be a need to award more contracts for these items.

We plan to have all units prepared and contracts awarded by May 1, 1968. This goal is dependent on our receiving additional financing early enough to put out bids by April 5.

III. Safety and Quality Control

A project safety plan is provided in the Forest master suppression plan. Each zone also has a written safety plan.

One man was assigned as safety and quality control officer on each zone. Also, there was a project safety and quality control officer working under the project supervisor. The project safety and quality control officer alternately checked work on both zones. All three officers made weekly written reports of their findings to the zone supervisors and project leader.

* Spotting on these units is completed.

Safety and quality control duties were the combined responsibilities of each man assigned to that position because of the close relationship involved. The following tabulation shows the project safety record:

	<u>SO</u>	<u>TM Crew</u>	<u>Zone II</u>	<u>Zone IV</u>	<u>Project Total</u>
Vehicle miles	13,524	1,271	70,965	41,678	127,438
Man hours	4,500	1,434	26,936	20,840	53,710
Lost time accidents	1	0	1	0	2
Medical (not lost time)	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle accidents	1	0	0	1	2
Unusual repairs	0	0	3	1	4
Injury frequency	222	0	37	0	37 *
Vehicle frequency	73	0	0	24	16 *
Contractor injuries			1	0	1

IV. Detailers

We experienced very good cooperation from other forests in the region in providing us with detailers. There was very little turnover and, for the most part, these men were above average in their attitudes and work.

There were 34 men detailed to the project from 12 other Region 4 forests. No cases of poor performance was reported. Sixteen men were detailed to the project from other units of the Targhee National Forest. No case of poor performance was reported.

V. Control by logging

Insect-infested trees removed by logging are shown in the following table. These trees were removed between August 1 and December 31, 1967. This is an estimate based on infested trees per acre determined by spotting and survey results on or adjacent to the sale areas.

* Both vehicle accidents were minor damage from vehicles sliding into trees on the very edge of primitive roads under extreme ice and mud conditions. Injuries were one sprained ankle and one bee bite.

<u>Sale</u>	<u>Acres Logged</u>	<u>Est. Infested Trees Logged</u>
West Bishop	437	2,185
Big Bend Ridge	108	324
Elk Wallow #2	100	300
Anderson Mill	60	600
Fall River Ridge	230	920
Bitch Creek	312	6,240
High Point #2	15	45
Elk Creek	<u>140</u>	<u>140</u>
TOTAL	1,402	10,754

In addition to the above, the following insect timber sales were sold during the period:

<u>Sale</u>	<u>Est. Acres</u>	<u>Estimated Infested Trees</u>
Tepee Creek	3,002	90,040
Bowerman Mill	679	1,358
Schaefer Creek	162	810
Cottonwood	223	111
Snyder Creek	<u>125</u>	<u>63</u>
TOTAL	4,191	92,382

VI. Finances

a. Allotments and Expenditures Summary

Total allotted (804) as of 12/31/67	\$1,753,425
Expenditures to complete 1966-1967 project	212,112
General expense assessment	79,648
Total project expenditures	890,053
Plus D-5 savings	<u>25,000</u>
Operating balance	\$ 596,612

This is the total balance remaining for use on all project work after December 31, 1967.

Supplemental funds for completing the project as planned are being requested in the amount of \$407,700. These additional funds will be needed because of increased treating costs, pay increase, not receiving total amount originally set up for project, and because there are an estimated 40,000 more infested trees on the project area than originally expected.

b. Cost Per Unit

Supervisor's Office insect-control staff expenses and general expense assessments are not included in the following figures. They will be considered in the cost per tree figures at the end of the project on July, 1968. These costs per tree are merely an indication of costs of our fall and winter treating program. Much of our fall expenditures were spent for contract unit preparation, contract obligation, and supplies for spring work and are not reflected here. The final report for the project will show cost per tree based on the entire project costs.

<u>Method</u>	<u>Trees Treated</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Cost/Tree</u>
Contract Treating	49,133	\$194,000	\$3.95
Force Account Treating	4,957	22,000	4.44
Logging	<u>10,754</u>	<u>1,379</u>	<u>.13</u>
TOTALS	64,844	\$217,379	\$3.35

Forest cost per tree exclusive of trees logged - \$3.99

Forest cost per tree including trees logged - \$3.35

VII. Oil and Ethylene Dibromide

It was necessary to purchase 154,545 gallons of diesel oil and 3,750 gallons of EDB on contract. Insecticide was mixed at a rate of 19 parts of oil to one part of EDB concentrate. This ratio gives the desired rate of .33 pounds of EDB in each gallon of mixed insecticide. The following shows the use of and balance remaining of insecticide:

<u>Mixed Insecticide Used (Gallons)</u>	<u>Total Trees Treated</u>	<u>Average Gallons Per Tree</u>
168,349	54,090	3.1

On Hand (Gallons)

	<u>Island Park</u>	<u>Rapid Cr.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mixed insecticide	5,800	7,155	12,955
EDB concentrate	3,925	1,950	5,875
Diesel oil	20,325	12,000	32,325

VIII. Cooperation

The Idaho State Forester and B.L.M. have given permission to treat infested trees on their lands within or adjacent to the Targhee National Forest.

Permission has been obtained in written agreements to treat private lands within or adjacent to the Forest. To date, one hundred and ninety-six agreements have been obtained. However, due to the reduced size of the project from that originally proposed, only forty-one are necessary to the present project.

See treating summary for the breakdown of accomplishment on state, private, and B.L.M. lands.

IX. Present Infestation Status

Our analysis of the present infestation on the Forest is as follows:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Spencer District	Epidemic has declined to endemic level.
Island Park District	Infestation is endemic or static on all areas except Thurburn Ridge and south of Hotel Creek. Some increase noted here this year.
Ashton District	Epidemic declining in old areas. However, it is spreading into new areas and blow up conditions will occur next flight if these areas are not treated on this project.
Porcupine District	Epidemic increasing and spreading rapidly. Blow up conditions exist. It is hoped that the present level can be held north of the Cave Falls road. However, a serious reinfestation will occur from untreated areas south of that road.
Driggs District	Epidemic increasing and spreading rapidly. Extreme blow up conditions exist.

Rexburg District

Main infestation - Epidemic declining due to lack of host trees. Still very hot.

Pine Creek - Epidemic increasing and spreading rapidly. Blow up conditions exist.

Swan Valley

Epidemic is spreading into most of lodge-pole type and increasing in intensity. Blow up conditions exist on most areas.

X. Information and Education

A brochure was prepared and is available to the public. The three-year I&E plan and a one-year plan for 1968 have been prepared. The project was provided with an I&E officer for the fall phase of the work. Personal I&E contacts were carried out as follows:

Newspaper articles	2
Slide lectures	2
Show-me trips	1
Radio talk	1
Individual contacts	400 - 500

XI. Inventory

A complete inventory is available at the insect control warehouse. A copy is not included with this report. A complete and up-to-date copy of the inventory will be attached to the final report of the project.

XII. Map Section

LEGEND

Contract Units:

Treating Completed



Spotting Completed



Paintlining Completed



Surveys Completed



Force Account Units:

Treating Completed



Project Area Boundary



Zone Boundary

